construction and development of National Highways in that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and allocation made to that State during 8th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Rs. 3078 crores have been allocated to various States for construction and development of National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Development works amounting to Rs. 2000 crores were sanctioned on National Highways in the various States for the first four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) Yes.

(d) The development of National Highways is a continuous process. However, the funds available have been about 40% of the requirements. As such the demands of all the States including that of Orissa could not be fully met. During the VIIIth Plan, a sum of Rs. 152.7 crores has been allocated to Orissa State.

Passport to Adopted Children

*99. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if a child is adopted, it is necessary to mention this on the passport by a Passport Officer;

(b) if so, under what provisions this is done;

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that in some Passport Offices the Officers mention on the passport that the child is adopted;

(d) whether this is not against the general policy of Government to encourage adoption of orphan children and to bring them in the mainstream;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ameliorate this situation; and

(f) whether new passports would be issued to such cases?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (e) Till 20th August' 96 the Passport Offices were prefixing the word "adoptive" to the father/mother's name, of the legally adopted child in the relevant column of the passport of the adopted child. After reconsidering the matter, however, with effect from 20th August, 1996 the Ministry issued instructions to all Passport Issuing Authorities not to give any indication of adoption in the passport of a child. These instructions are now being followed by all passport issuing authorities.

(f) Yes Sir, new passports without indicating the fact of adoption can be issued in all cases where the words "adoptive" already appear in the passports of the adopted child.

Demand for Abolition of the Post of Governors in States

*100. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Kerala have urged the Government of India to abolish the post of Governors of States and if it is not possible to do so, the Governor be appointed from a panel of three eminent persons suggested by the Chief Minister; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) (a) and (b) No specific request has been received from the Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Kerala urging the Government of India that the post of Governor should be abolished and that, if it is not possible to do so, the Governor

should be appointed from a panel of three eminent persons suggested by the Chief Minister. However, in the second meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 15th October, 1996, the Chief Minister of West Bengal and Kerala had expressed views to that effect.

The role of Governor has been deliberated upon by the Sarkaria Commission in Chapter IV of its report. This chapter was considered by the Sub-committee of the Council. Para No. 4.16.03 of the report of the Council mention that in order to ensure effective consultation with the Chief Minister in the selection of a person to be appointed as Governor, the procedure of consultation should be perscribed in the Constitution itself by suitably amending article 155. No consensus could be arrived at on this recommendation.

The above recommendation was part of Item No. 4 of the agenda for the second meeting of the Council, consisting of issues proposed to be referred to a High Level Committee. However, as recommended by the Council, the observations and proposals made by the members of the Council at the second meeting would be referred to a Standing Committee of the Council instead of a High Level Committee for consideration and report to the Council. The constitution of the Standing Committee is under consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Criteria for Change in Indian/Foreign promoters of Cellular Service Licences

501. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for changes in Indian2/Foreign promoters of cellular phone service licences;

(b) the particulars of such changes approved by Government so far; and

(c) the particulars of proposals pending with Government seeking such changes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) (a) Criteria for change of Indian and foreign promoters followed by the Deptt. is as follows:

(i) The changes of Indian Promoters/Partners have been permitted where the new promoters/partners, holdings substantial stake were either subsidiaries of the original promoters or group Companies mentioned in the bid documents.

(ii) The cases of change of foreign partners not covered under tender/ lincence conditions are also considered on receipt of applications from the licensee companies duly supported by relevant documents. The new foreign partner proposed to be inducted must satisfy all the criteria taken into consideration for grant of licence.

(b) Eight licensee companies have been permitted change in Indian/foreign partner(s) in 5 cases and foreign partner(s) in 6 cases.

(c) Proposals from 11 licensee companies have been received for change of Indian/foreign partners involving change in Indian partner(s) in 4 cases and foreign partner(s) in 10 cases.

Renaming of Port Blair after veer Sawarkar

502. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request for renaming of the Capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands 'Port Blair' after Veer Sawarkar during this 50th year of independence; and